

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 /089 W

-----191507 113640 /53

R 191432Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1859

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USLO RIYADH

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 1186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, PLO, IS, XF

SUBJECT: ARTICLE IN AL-BAATH PROPOSES ISRAEL RETURN  
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO UNIFIED ARAB COMMAND  
FOLLOWING WHICH ARABS WILL DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN  
CAUSE

1. UNSIGNED COLUMN IN FEB 18 AL-BAATH, ENTITLED "WHAT  
DOES ISRAEL MEAN BY 'ENDING STATE OF WAR,'" PROPOSED  
TWO-STAGE PROCESS TO END STATE OF WAR: A) ISRAELI  
WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN JUNE 1967,  
AND B) CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE ON EVACUATED  
TERRITORY. ACCORDING TO COLUMN, "UNIFIED ARAB COMMAND  
COULD RECEIVE TERRITORY EVACUATED BY ISRAELI FORCES  
IF ISRAEL DID NOT WANT PALESTINIANS TO RECEIVE LAND  
DIRECTLY FROM ITS FORCES. COMMAND WOULD THEN IN TURN  
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HAND TERRITORY OVER TO PLO TO ESTABLISH PALESTINIAN  
STATE. PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD THUS AUTOMATICALLY  
AND SPONTANEOUSLY BE ESTABLISHED, WITHOUT ANY PRIOR  
CONSENT BEING NECESSARY FROM ISRAEL. NOR WOULD ISRAEL'S  
RECOGNITION OF IT BE NECESSARY EITHER, JUST AS PALESTINIAN  
STATE IN ITS TURN WOULD NOT BE COMMITTED TO RECOGNITION  
OF ISRAEL. RECOGNITION WOULD BE LEFT UP TO POLICY OF

EACH STATE. IF ZIONIST STATE EARNEST IN ITS DESIRE TO  
END STATE OF WAR, THIS WOULD BE ONLY WAY. ALL IT IS RE-  
QUIRED TO DO IS ANNOUNCE ITS COMMITMENT TO IT AND  
ITS READINESS TO IMPLEMENT IT, AND TO AGREE ON SPECIFIC  
TIMETABLE, IN RETURN FOR OPEN UNDERTAKING BY ARAB  
STATES WHICH ARE IN STATE OF WAR WITH ISRAEL TO END THIS  
STATE OF WAR WHEN IMPLEMENTATION IS COMPLETED."  
COLUMN CONCLUDED THAT ARAB STATES NOT INTERESTED IN PEACE  
TREATY WITH ISRAEL BUT ONLY WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF  
ABOVE SCENARIO.

2. AL-BAATH EDITOR BAGHAJATI STATED IN FEB 19 PHONE  
CONVERSATION THAT AUTHOR OF ARTICLE WAS MUHAMMAD IZZAT  
DARWAZAH, WHO HE SAID WAS PALESTINIAN. ACCORDING TO  
BAGHAJATI, OPINIONS CONTAINED IN COLUMN REPRESENTED  
AUTHOR'S "PERSONAL VIEWS" TOWARD ISSUES DISCUSSED.

3. DETAILS OF PROPOSAL OBVIOUSLY OUT OF LINE WITH  
BOTH ISRAELI AND SYRIAN POSITIONS; PRES ASAD HAS STATED  
IN TIME MAGAZINE INTERVIEW HIS WILLINGNESS TO SIGN PEACE  
TREATY WITH ISRAEL. INTERESTING POINT OF ARTICLE IS  
ITS ATTEMPT TO DEAL WITH ISRAELI REFUSAL TO NEGOTIATE  
WITH PLO. SEQUENTIAL PROCESS IT ENVISAGES OF ARAB  
STATES DEALING WITH ISRAEL OVER TERRITORY AND THEN  
ARABS DEALING AMONG THEMSELVES WITH PALESTINIANS IS  
SIMILAR TO THAT SUGGESTED RECENTLY BY SAIQA LEADER  
ZUHAYR MUHSIN AS WAY TO GET AROUND PROBLEM OF INVITING  
PALESTINIANS TO GENEVA. HOWEVER UNREALISTIC SOLUTION  
PROPOSED, WE FIND IT ENCOURAGING THAT SYRIA PERMITTING  
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PUBLICATION OF IDEAS WHICH STRIVE TO AVOID FORESEEN  
NEGOTIATING OBSTACLES, IN THIS CASE HOW TO HANDLE REFUSAL  
OF ISRAELIS TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH PLO OR ACCEPT ITS  
PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA.  
PELLETREAU

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE TALKS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DAMASC01186  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** ARTICLE IN AL-BAATH PROPOSES ISRAEL RETURN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO UNIFIED ARAB COMMAND FOLLOWING WHICH ARABS WILL DEAL WITH PALESTINIAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SY, IS, XF, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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